



United States Department of Agriculture

# *George Washington & Jefferson National Forests*

## **George Washington Final Revised Forest Plan**

### **Fact Sheet**

George Washington National Forest has 1.1 million acres of land in Virginia and West Virginia.

The Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was last revised in 1993.

The recently signed plan was revised under the 1982 planning regulations.

There are 31 of the 125 land management plans in the Forest service currently under revision.

The revised plan balances multiple uses and assures a healthy forest, including water quality and diverse wildlife habitat and protects and enhances recreation opportunities.

Some key changes made in the Revised Plain include:

- Riparian buffers increase from 66 feet along perennial streams to 100 feet
- Area suitable for timber production increases from 350,000 acres to 452,000 acres
- Annual timber regeneration objective increases from 2,400 acres to a range of 1,800 to 3,000 acres
- Annual prescribed fire objective increases from 3,000 acres to a range of 12,000 to 20,000 acres
- Biological and geological areas increases from 80,000 acres to 121,000 acres
- Wilderness is recommended to increase from 40,000 acres in 6 areas to 70,000 acres in 8 areas
- Recommend a National Scenic Area on Shenandoah Mountain (about 90,000 acres including one existing wilderness and one recommended wilderness)
- Areas managed for their remote settings increases from 251,000 acres to 370,000 acres
- Minimum road system needed for management decreases from 1,700 miles to 1,500 miles

The Forest Service also made a decision on the lands administratively available for oil and gas leasing.

- The amount of land available for leasing decreases from 995,000 acres to 10,000 acres (the amount of land that was leased during the past planning period).
- The GWNF has never been a supplier of natural gas and there has been no recent expression of interest in exploring or developing GWNF lands.
- Of the 193 million acres in the national forest system, BLM estimates there are approximately 57 million acres of potentially available lands of federal mineral estate oil and gas reserves.
- Of this potentially available land approximately 5.3 million acres is presently leased through 6,700 leases.
- 72% of those leases have not been developed for production.
- Of this total, about 1.6 million acres are in producing status and 3.7 million are non-producing.
- There are an additional 2.6 million acres of federally owned minerals on 45 FS units currently under leasing request by industry.



Forest Service

Date: (11/18/2014)